(b) if so, what role the Indian Government is playing for a settlement between the two countries so as to stop war and to settle the dispute mutually?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) and (b) The continuance of Iran-Iraq war now in its seventh year has indeed posed a challenge of grave concern to the Nonaligned Movement but has at no stage posed a threat to the existence of NAM as both Iran and Iraq continue to be its respective and active Members. From the outset, the Government of India has played an active role, both bilaterally and within the Movement, with a view to bringing this tragic conflict to an end. At the Non aligned Foreign Ministers Conference in New Delhi in February, 1981, India participated in the Ministerial Group of four countries charged with the task of attempting to secure a negotiated settlement. At the New Delhi Summit in March, 1983, Smt. Indira Gandhi as Chairperson of the Movement issued an appeal to end the war. This appeal was renewed by India in April, 1986 Ministerial Meeting of the Nonaligned Coordinating Bureau in New Delhi.

Laying of fence along the Indo-Bangladesh border

1328. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Bangladesh Government is not cooperating with the Government of India in the matter of laying of the fence along the Indo-Bangladesh border;

(b) whether the issue was discussed during Bangladesh President's recent visit to India; and

(c) if so, what was the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) The fence is to be built entirely on Indian territory. The cooperation of any other country, accordingly, does not arise.

(b) and (c) The problem of the continuing illegal immigration from Bangladesh into India was raised by the Indian side and the Bangladesh side was informed of the steps proposed to be taken to tackle this problem.

Dropping of Napalm bombs on civilian areas by the Sri Lankan Air Force personnel

1329. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that napalm bombs were dropped on the civilian areas by the Sri Lankan air force personnel; and

(b) if so, whether the Government of India have taken up the matter with the Sri Lankan Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. P. NARAYANAN): (a) Government have seen press reports about the reported dropping napalm bombs by Sri Lankan air force personnel on civilian areas. There is, however, no definite information with Government to confirm these reports.

(b) Government have deplored all acts of violence and have repeatedly conveyed to the Sri Lankan authorities their concern at the violence directed against civilians by the security forces. The question of use of napalm has not, however, been specifically taken up due to lack of confirmation regarding the same.

P.M.'s visit to Pakistan

1330. SHRI KAPIL VERMA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased o state whether the Prime Minister has recently received any request from the Government of Pakistan to visit that country?